

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Elhilo for the indication that the rejection of Claims 1-6 as being anticipated by Mikoshiba et al has been withdrawn (page 2, lines 3-4 of the Office Action mailed May 12, 2005). Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is requested.

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Mikoshiba et al is obviated by amendment.

This ground of rejection is based on the Examiner's position that Mikoshiba et al disclose a compound of formula D-44. Applicants note that Claim 11 has been amended to delete D-44 from the list of alternative direct dyes. In view of the present amendment, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is no longer anticipated by the disclosure of Mikoshiba et al. As such, Claims 11 should now be allowable.

Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

The Examiner has held Claim 11 to be indefinite for reciting five compounds that are outside the scope of Claim 1 from which it depends: D-5, D-44, D-47, D-48 (second occurrence), and D-49. To this end, these direct dye compounds have been canceled from Claim 11. Applicants note that new Claim 19 presents D-5, D-47, D-48 (second occurrence), and D-49 in independent format and, therefore, is free of this ground of criticism.

Applicants wish to make special note that the second occurrence of D-48 appearing in previously pending Claim 11 and on page 26 of the specification has been amended to avoid unnecessary and confusing duplicity in naming convention. Specifically, the second occurrence of D-48 has been replaced with D-52.

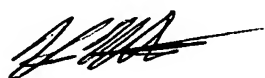
Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The objection to Claims 1-18 is obviated by amendment. Applicants note that the claims have been amended to be free of the Examiner's criticisms. As such, applicants request withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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